



News From

JUDY BIGGERT

CONGRESSWOMAN ♦ 13TH DISTRICT ♦ ILLINOIS

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BIGGERT ANNOUNCES \$500,000 IN FUNDING FOR ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN (I&M) CANAL

Money to shore up canal's aging infrastructure

Clarendon Hills, Illinois – Today, U.S. Representatives Judy Biggert (R-13th) announced \$500,000 in federal funding for the historic Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission. In April, Representative Biggert was one of several Illinois delegation members who signed a joint request to the Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

"This money is essential to preserving the canal's aging infrastructure, enhancing its historical programs and increasing its recreational value," said Biggert. "I thank Congressman Jerry Weller for his hard work and enthusiastic support throughout this process."

Included in the 2002 Interior Appropriations conference report, the \$500,000 is an increase of \$260,000 over last year. The House and Senate have cleared the conference report and the bill will move onto the President for his signature.

Designated by Congress in 1984 as the nation's first National Heritage Corridor, the I&M Canal region stretches 120 miles from Chicago's Navy Pier to LaSalle-Peru, IL, and includes state parks, forest preserves, wetlands, bike trails archaeological sites and numerous waterways. Congress also established the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission to oversee development of the Heritage Corridor. Over the years, the Commission has provided a public forum to coordinate local, state, and private efforts for preservation, conservation, and revitalization of this region that encompasses five counties and 49 communities.

"Individuals and communities along the canal recognize the historical importance of the canal and celebrate its contribution to local identity and progress with festivals, fairs, and other community events," said Biggert. "This money will allow the Commission to continue working diligently with local individuals, organizations, and communities to maintain this monument to American engineering and ingenuity well into the future."

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